

The Crucible, Act III by Arthur Miller
Vocabulary Warm-up Word Lists

Study these words from the selection. Then, complete the activities.

Word List A

anonymity [a nuh NIM uh tee] *n.* condition of being nameless; obscurity

The official said she would be quoted only on condition of anonymity.

baffled [BAF uhld] *v.* puzzled; mystified

Sue's behavior baffled us; we could see no reason or motive for it.

disruption [dis RUP shuhn] *n.* disturbance

An accident in the tunnel led to a major disruption of the traffic flow.

dutiful [DYOO ti fuhl] *adj.* obedient; conscientious

Polly had a dutiful attitude toward her parents, never violating their wishes.

extravagance [eks TRAV uh guhns] *n.* lavish show or expenditure

Living his life with extravagance, he soon faced the prospect of bankruptcy.

perjury [PER joo ree] *n.* lying under oath

If you are convicted of perjury, you could be fined and imprisoned.

prodigious [pruh DIJ uhs] *adj.* very large; remarkable

We were able to reach the mountaintop only with prodigious effort.

random [RAN duhm] *adj.* by chance; haphazard

That poll was taken on a random basis, with respondents chosen by chance.

Word List B

apprehensively [ap ree HEN siv lee] *adv.* fearfully

Carla lived apprehensively, as she always worried about her health.

befuddled [bee FUD uhld] *v.* confused

In his tennis matches, Ben often befuddled his opponents with drop shots.

connivance [kuh NYV uhns] *n.* cooperation in a wrongful activity

The connivance of several employees helped the criminals to rob the bank.

lurks [LERKS] *n.* stays hidden; exists unobserved

Walking at night, Otis always fears that a mugger lurks in every corner.

placidly [PLA sid lee] *adv.* peacefully

After drinking a bowl of milk, the cat placidly lay down by the fireside.

plays [PLOYS] *n.* tricks; strategies

Renzo learned new plays that would improve his chess game.

qualm [KWAHLM] *n.* sudden feeling of doubt; twinge of conscience

Chet hadn't the slightest qualm in asking his boss for a raise.

remorseless [ree MOHRS luhs] *adj.* pitiless; merciless

The cat seemed remorseless in its stalking of the small bird in the shrubbery.